

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /110 W
----- 010634

R 231131 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4225

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HPK

SUBJ: ARMY MOVES INTO BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 817 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON HEELS OF REPORTED KILLING OF 8 DIR SCOUTS
BY BALUCH TRIBESMEN IN AMBUSH MAY 18 (REFTEL) GOP
MAY 22 ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD SENT ARMY UNITS INTO
MENGAL AND MARRI TRIBAL AREAS TO " AID (BALUCH-
STAN GOVERNMENT) TO RESTORE ORDER" IN PROVINCE.
UNCLEAR WHETHER GOVERNMENT FACING GENUINE THREAT FROM
TRIBAL DISSIDENTS OR HAS PROVOKED OR CONTRIVED AN
INCIDENT TO BELABOR POLITICAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 22
SAYING THAT BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAD
DETERMINED TO TAKE " ALL NECESSARY MEASURES" TO RESTORE
LAW AND ORDER IN PROVINCE AND, IN VIEW OF ITS OWN MEAGER
RESOURCES, HAD SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
ACCORDINGLY, FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAD DIRECTED CIVIL
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ARMED FORCES AND ARMY UNITS TO TAKE " ALL NECESSARY ACTION" IN CONCERT WITH GOVERNMENT OF BALUCHISTAN TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER IN PROVINCE. STATEMENT NOTED THAT ONE ARMY UNIT HAD ALREADY ARRIVED AT MAIWAND, HEADQUARTERS OF MARRI TRIBE IN SIBI DISTRICT (SOUTHEAST OF QUETTA), AND BEGUN SEARCHING AREA FOR ARMS.

2. GOP STATEMENT RECOUNTED AT LENGTH HISTORY OF ALLEGED GOP DIFFICULTIES WITH MARRI AND MENGAL TRIBES SINCE FEBRUARY, 1973 FLARE- UP WITH JAMOTE TRIBESMEN AT LASBELA. STATEMENT CLAIMED ARMY HAD RESTORED ORDER IN LASBELA AT THAT TIME AND THAT GOP HAD CONTINUED SINCE THEN TO ACT WITH " RESTRAINT" WHICH, HOWEVER, HAD ONLY ENCOURAGED " LAWLESS ELEMENTS." IN DISCUSSING MAY 18 INCIDENT IN WHICH 8 DIR SCOUTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN AMBUSH BY MARRI TRIBESMEN, STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT BOTH MARRI AND MENGAL TRIBESMEN WERE NATURALLY " TRUSTING AND LAW- ABIDING," BUT WERE BEING MISLED AND EXPLOITED BY " CERTAIN POLITICAL ELEMENTS" (READ NAP).

3. COMMENT: IRANIAN DCM TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF MAY 22 THAT IRANIAN CONSULATE IN QUETTA HAD REPORTED NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN PAST FEW DAYS AND ASSUMED ALLEGED STRIFE WAS PART OF " NORMAL TRIBAL WARFARE IN BALUCHISTAN." IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM THIS DISTANCE WHETHER GOP IS DISPATCHING TROOPS TO BALUCHISTAN IN RESPONSE GENUINE THREAT FROM TRIBAL DISSIDENTS OR WHETHER (AS WIDELY BELIEVED OF LASBELA INCIDENT LAST FEBRUARY) GOVERNMENT HAS PROVOKED A CLASH, DISTORTED A MINOR INCIDENT OR EVEN CONTRIVED ONE TO SERVE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER MOVES AGAINST POLITICAL OPPOSITION. OUTCOME OF LASBELA INCIDENT WAS OUSTER OF NAP/ JUI PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN QUETTA. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT WILL EMERGE FROM THIS ONE.
SOBER

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